



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Increasing Consumer Access to Data VA Sample Data Set Descriptions April 2010

Purpose:

VA is providing the public with access to synthetic sample data sets for the purpose of fostering innovation and enabling industry stakeholders to provide feedback to inform future Personal Health Record development. These synthetic sample data sets were constructed to illustrate combinations of VistA Electronic Health Record data classes and patient self-entered data classes. These efforts are intended to further support e-personal health care using open government principles.

About the VA Synthetic Sample Data Sets:

Synthetic sample data sets are provided in excel and csv file formats. The cases represent both VistA Electronic Health Record data and My HealtheVet Personal Health Record self-entered data classes in illustrative clinical scenarios in order to demonstrate the value of combining Electronic Health Record data with patient self-reported data. For example, one case includes a food and drug contraindication.

Information on the Data Classes Represented in Sample Data Sets:

The national My HealtheVet portal (www.myhealth.va.gov) was launched in November 2003. By design, the addition of new features has been incremental and interactive. By releasing new features incrementally, system impact can be monitored and adjustments made to preserve system performance and ensure the quality of the user experience and support adoption of new tools and features. Often, new releases are "field tested" to elicit Veteran feedback that is incorporated into iterative releases, ensuring that the program is adaptable and flexible in meeting user's needs.

The data classes represented in the synthetic sample data sets includes several different types of data. All data types with the exception of the patient self entered data are available in VistA. Note that not all data classes represented in the sample data sets are currently available in the My HealtheVet Personal Health record portal. For example, data classes in field testing are currently available to a limited number of VA patients in order to enable quality assurance monitoring prior to national deployment. We anticipate that the status of data classes represented in the synthetic sample data sets will change as new features are released into the My HealtheVet Personal Health record portal.

How to Communicate with Comments or Questions:

If you have comments or questions about the sample data sets or need additional information, please send an email to bluebutton@cms.hhs.gov. Along with your question or comment, please be sure to include your full name, company, title or role, email address and daytime phone number. This mail box will remain open for 60 days after the web meeting for submission of ideas, comments and questions.